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# Inside Journalism

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# INSIDE JOURNALISM

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College

## Become an Activist J-Major

**A**ttention all j-majors—it's time to develop an activist strategy for your future. Why now? Because in the real world of professional journalism, jobs are scarce, money is tight and competition is fierce.

J-students who settle for "getting by" in college can expect fast rejections from employers seeking "standouts" not "cop-outs." So get on the success track now—here are 10 tips to start you on your way:

**1. Know your major requirements.** Literature is available in the j-department and in academic advising that clearly details the courses required for the magazine, news reporting and broadcast journalism sequences. While you must select one of these tracks to complete the major, make sure your elective choices reflect the changing face of the job market. (Try "The Business Beat" next fall; graduates who can write about economic issues, business and labor have a real edge.)

**2. Get program counseling before you register.** Poor sequencing and inappropriate course selection can slow you down, sink your GPA, or disqualify you from internships and departmental publications. Counseling is even more critical for transfer students who have limited time to complete a four-year major. The best place to get advice that counts is in the j-department.

**3. Introduce yourself to Harry Parson and Paula Eubanks...** and visit them regularly. Harry is your academic

advisor and Paula is your career advisor; both have offices on the third floor of the Wabash building in Career Planning & Placement. Visit Harry at least once a year to make sure you are on the right academic track—one that will lead to graduation by a specific date. Don't wait until you're a senior in search of a job to call on Paula; starting now she



J-students had an excellent opportunity to practice networking and interviewing skills at the 3rd Annual Journalism Minority Job Fair on January 30. Featured speaker Art Norman, WMAQ-TV news anchor, told students to look left and right to find tomorrow's journalistic stars.

can help you make sound career choices and develop marketing strategies for your skills (check out her new column on page 2).

**4. Choose liberal arts courses that complement the major.** It's great to be able to write; it's even better to have something to write about—and the expertise to make people listen. Select courses that support this goal: history, political science, economics, literature, science (especially on the environment and health-related issues). Tell registra-

tion counselors that you are a j-major and ask them to recommend courses which will enrich your intellectual repertoire.

**5. Build your clip file—from day one.** After you graduate, clips define you—no excuse is acceptable for not taking every opportunity to get a published byline. Some of the ways include: stringing for community newspapers; working for departmental publications (*Columbia Chronicle*, *Chicago Arts and Communication*, *Inside Journalism*, *inreview*); serving in internships; and volunteering your writing skills to church newsletters, youth groups, etc.

**6. Learn the art of networking.** Get to know your instructors (all working professionals) and keep in touch; join the J-Club, as well as student chapters of professional organizations, and attend their events; attend job fairs, starting as freshmen; read professional publications to keep up with changes and trends in the industry and for job listings.

**7. Apply for scholarships, achievement awards, competitive internships, stipends.** Check the bulletin boards in the j-department and in Career Planning & Placement regularly for the latest announcements—and don't miss the application deadlines!

**8. Seek out job interview opportunities—**whether you feel ready or not. Nothing prepares you for the real thing like doing it—again and again, until you feel confident. Job fairs and intern-

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## Job Search

By Paula Eubanks

"Please send resume and clips." It's a standard line in job ads for print journalists.

While a great resume can be whipped up overnight in response to an opportunity, a great set of clips cannot. By applying a bit of strategy now, however, j-students can build a set of useful clips that will be ready when a job opportunity appears.

The first step is to learn what types of stories and professional abilities editors watch for in clips. For example, editors of general newspapers seeking general assignment reporters might look for a diverse set of stories, including coverage of meetings, parades, business dealings, and elections—typical general news. They might also look for certain abilities, such as the talent to make school district budgets understandable to the average reader.

The next step is to write and publish about 10 stories that mirror what editors say they are seeking. For students, one of the best ways to do this is by

freelancing.

With some forethought, stories written for class, research papers, or life experiences all can be turned into stories to pitch to editors. Columbia College's Career Planning & Placement office is now offering a free weekly workshop on freelancing to assist in such efforts. The half-hour workshop is scheduled for each Thursday at 1 p.m. in room 303 of the Wabash building.

Interestingly, freelancing to build a set of targeted clips has some important extra benefits for students seeking careers as professional journalists. It provides opportunities to learn about the market for editorial work, to meet editors, and to sell one's self and ideas. This experience forms the groundwork of any search for full-time editorial employment, in addition to producing the sheaf of clips requested by employers.

*Paula is the j-department's career advisor. Seek her out in Career Planning & Placement, Wabash Suite 300.*

tive experiences and tried to make them as simple as he could.

Surprisingly, Gaines started out in journalism as a radio major. After graduating from Indianapolis' Butler University in 1956, he worked in radio for 10 years. He says he enjoyed radio but he was unable to make a living at it.

"I was starving to death," says Gaines. "Radio always paid poorly."

In 1963, he was hired by the *Chicago Tribune*, where he worked for 10 years as a police reporter but didn't like it. "It wasn't my thing," says Gaines.

After the Woodward and Bernstein investigation broke Watergate open, Gaines saw

investigative reporting as "the wave of the future." He got in on the ground floor in 1973 by becoming



a full-time investigative reporter, because he was interested in looking for "the story behind the story."

His foresight paid off when he received a Pulitzer Prize for a bizarre, undercover investigation of a hospital, in which he acted as a janitor to get the story. In 1988 he received a second Pulitzer for a lengthy article on corruption in the Chicago City Council.

Columbia hired Gaines after a fellow reporter at the *Tribune*, who had written an article about the college, told Gaines the school was interested in ideas for classes. Gaines pitched *Investigative Reporting* (which at that time was an uncommon subject in any school) as a possible class, and the rest is history.

Gaines says that by teaching, he has taught himself how to express his ideas and how to relate to a younger group of people with whom he might not otherwise connect. "From the input that I get from the students over the years, I keep up with the times and keep abreast of the concerns of the younger generation."

The book, *Investigative Reporting for Print and Broadcast*, will be available to students next fall.

—Tom Shea

## Gaines Text Based on Pulitzer Prize Stories

Contrary to popular student belief, not all textbook writers are faceless pedants who write cold and impersonal college texts.

Take, for example, Bill Gaines, longtime *Investigative Reporting* teacher, whose new textbook, *Investigative Reporting for Print and Broadcast*, uses fictionalized accounts of real cases from his Pulitzer Prize-winning career as a *Chicago Tribune* reporter. Gaines says his book is a composite of everything he's learned about the technique of investigative reporting over the years.

Gaines, 59, has taught at Columbia longer than almost anyone on the entire staff. He reminisces that in 19 years of teaching *Investigative Reporting* at

Columbia, he has seen the j-department pitch tent in four different buildings before finally settling in the Wabash building. "I'm the oldest of the old," he jokes.

When Gaines proposed the idea of an investigative reporting text to the Nelson Hall Publishing Company of Chicago, they were immediately interested. "They were interested in the idea of this text because there's never been anything like it," he says.

Gaines' textbook dissects investigations and explains how investigative reporters obtain essential information. It also discusses how to deal with ethical problems that arise. Gaines says he took complicated personal investiga-



# Opinionated Grad Returns to Teach

**M**ary Johnson is back. Following her acclaimed series, "The Great Divide," about racial division in the city of Chicago, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reporter and 1991 j-grad has returned to Columbia to teach Opinion Writing.

Carolyn Hulse, acting chair, says she decided Johnson would be the ideal teacher for the course after reading the series, which featured powerful opinion pieces by Johnson and co-reporter Don Hayner. Johnson's commentary "spoke from the heart," says Hulse, and "served as the editorial backbone" for the series.

Johnson says she was delighted to accept the teaching assignment because she "always wanted to give something back" to the school that launched her career. "I think students can identify with me," Johnson believes, "because I was recently in their seats. Now I want



**"I think students can identify with me because I was recently in their seats. Now I want to reach out and help someone else."—Mary Johnson**

to reach out and help someone else."

"The Great Divide" series, which ran in January,

took a close look at how race relations affect jobs, housing and education. "As a reporter," says Johnson, "I was challenged by every aspect of this series, from conceptualizing the idea and preparing the questions to writing the stories in a coherent way."

While interviewing people for the series, Johnson says she "found that a large number of African-Americans want to be more self-sufficient." But they are held back, she says, "by all the inequities they have faced."

Johnson says her next big task at the *Sun-Times* will be to create a multicultural beat, "to better serve our diverse readership." She believes that the paper has to "begin covering issues and stories that relate to the communities of Asians, African-Americans and other under-represented groups."

—Arbin Smith

## Activist Major

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ships provide excellent, non-threatening opportunities to try out your interviewing skills and test the impact of your resume and clips.

**9. Keep your resume and clip file up-to-date.** Be prepared to send your resume and clips out at a moment's notice. Always have multiple copies of your latest resume and your six best clips ready to stick in a stamped envelope—or shove into an employer's eager hand!

**10. Take chances.** If you're not willing to stick your neck out, then you're in the wrong business; if you can't take rejection, find a new major. Journalism is for people who refuse to take "no" for an answer, who won't "go away" when told, who insist on asking "why" and "how" when "just the facts" don't tell the whole story.

Enjoy the ride...and good luck!

—Carolyn Hulse, Acting Chair

## J-Department News-Bites

■ Senior Marijo Millette has won a 1992 Excellence Award from Parenting Publications of America for her story "Images of AIDS," which was published in the June 1992 issue of *ChicagoParent*, where Marijo worked as an editorial intern. The award, an Honorable Mention in the Feature Writing/Reporting category, praises Marijo for making the "outrage and courage of an AIDS-infected mother come to life in an inspiring portrait."

■ Applications for the John Fischetti Scholarship are now available in the j-department for qualified print and broadcast j-majors, photojournalists and editorial cartoonists. Application deadline is May 21.

■ The Journalism Club will hold its next meeting on Thursday, April 1 at 1:30 p.m. in Hokin Auditorium. A panel of alumni from all areas of journalism will help students address the question,

"Will I be ready when I graduate?" Come hear those who have made it to "the other side" tell you how to get there and what it's like.

■ Students interested in being on the staff of the 1994 issue of *Chicago Arts and Communication* magazine and participating in the two-semester workshop should speak to faculty advisor Don Gold as soon as possible.

■ "Challenge the Future," an arts and communication career fair for minority students, will be held on Friday, April 16. A panel discussion will take place at 9:30 a.m. in Hokin Auditorium and the job fair will begin at 11:00 on the third floor of the Wabash building.

■ Any j-student with 60 credits and a 3.0 GPA who is interested in obtaining a summer internship should make an appointment with Carolyn Hulse in the j-department or Nadine Sterk in television.



# Randle Exhibits Photos



*La Abuelita* (The Grandmother), a photo taken by Wilma Randle in Caujinicuilapa, Guerrero in Mexico, is from the j-instructor's recent photo exhibit, "Visits With My Cousins: Highlights of the African Roots in Mexico and Cuba."

Many journalists know the only way to expand one's intellectual horizons is to leave a familiar backyard—to travel and experience the world. When the opportunity arose for j-instructor Wilma Randle to do just that, she latched onto it.

A *Chicago Tribune* business writer, Randle moonlights as an Introduction to Media Writing teacher. For fun, though, she is a photographer—and a very good one.

Last month, an exhibit of her photographs illustrating African roots in Mexico and Cuba appeared at Rosary College, where as an undergrad she double-majored in history and communications. Randle followed that by earning a masters in international journalism from the University of Southern California.

Randle says, "The photos in this exhibit were taken during the summer of 1991. At the time, I was living in Mexico City where I was a fellow in USC's Center for International Journalism."

Her studies also allowed her to see Cuba.

"It was the summer after the Berlin Wall fell. In Cuba, there was this feeling of optimism, an urgency, a welcoming of pending change."

So how does a business writer become a weekend photojournalist?

"Photography is something I've always done," says Randle. "I'm a photographer at heart. I got my first camera when I was seven or eight and I've never stopped taking pictures."

"When I was in college, I planned to be a photojournalist. Being a business writer wasn't planned. It was a fluke." —Chris Dolack

## Down and Dirty at City News Bureau

You must start someplace. This phrase is familiar to beginning journalists. It translates into: You have to do dirty work for little pay.

But some Columbia College alumni who are reporters for City News Bureau say starting at the bottom isn't so bad. In fact, at times it's downright exciting.

City News Bureau is a wire service owned by the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Every aspect of city life, crime and government is covered by the bureau's army of reporters. For many new graduates, it's the ideal place for a novice to gain experience.

Former j-student Debbie Wells Lively ('89) says reporting for City News Bureau is definitely a challenge. One of her toughest tasks was finding a local angle to the Jeffrey Dahmer case.

"I had to go for three or four days to gay bars on the North Side and ask people if Jeffrey Dahmer ever tried to pick them up. I got thrown out of more bars!" Debbie recalls.

Beth Roller ('89) is a Cook County reporter for City News Bureau. Although Beth admits covering budgets is rather dry, she says it is something every reporter should know how to do.

"I was afraid to do it, but I was forced to. That's how you learn," Beth says.

One thing Beth hopes to achieve at City News Bureau is improvement of her writing and reporting skills.

"City News Bureau is a great place to get your skills down pat. It helps you go right out there and ask the right questions and report without feeling intimidated," says Beth.

Yvette Shields, a 1988 j-grad, says her job at City News Bureau is giving her experience in a big city, where beginning journalists often find closed doors instead of job offers. One of her career highlights at City News Bureau was covering the Great Chicago Flood in 1992.

"Everyday something new would happen," Yvette says. "It was a week of chaos, but it was an exciting time to be a reporter."

Debbie, Beth and Yvette enjoy working at City News Bureau because it allows them to interact and network with top people in the business.

"You get to be like Warner Saunders or Joan Esposito, even though you don't have their experience," says Debbie.

—Bridget Connelly



# Internships Now Jobs for Two Grads

Two recent j-graduates had their wild-test dreams come true when their respective internships turned into jobs.

Kim Ehrenhaft, a January 1993 grad, interned at Kona Communications in Deerfield, Ill. "I started at Kona in the summer of '91 and continued through the fall and then I went back in the summer of '92. It was a part-time job and internship at different times," she says.

Kim added that this internship was her first and only, so she gave it her best effort. First she wrote press releases for her department and company magazine. Then she wrote features for a trucking industry trade magazine Kona publishes.

"I did everything—layout, editing, billing," she says. "My bosses were impressed with my work and offered me a full-time position in September '92."

Kim also worked as news editor at *The College News* for two semesters, as managing editor and editor of *Inside Journalism* for three semesters, and as an articles editor at *Chicago Arts and*

*Communication* for a year.

Kim says the internship gave her hands-on experience in a real magazine environment. Her advice for j-students is to take advantage of internships and

**You can't do the bare minimum and expect to go anywhere with an internship.—Mindy Austin**

work hard to make them pay off.

Mindy Austin, another January grad, started her internship at Ameritech Mobile Communications in Hoffman Estates during the summer of '92.

"The marketing department hired me to start a newsletter, but I ended up writing brochures. I was using my skills more for copy editing than writing," she says.

Mindy continued the Ameritech internship into the fall '92 semester. "I worked long hours, even on Saturdays

and Sundays, more than eight hours at a stretch, because I believed and hoped that I would go on to bigger and better things. You just can't do the bare minimum and expect to go anywhere with an internship," she says.

Like Kim, Mindy also worked as a news editor at *The College News*, and as managing editor of *Inside Journalism* for the Spring '92 semester. She was also an articles editor for *Chicago Arts and Communication* during the 1991-92 academic year.

All the hard work paid off when Mindy's boss, Mary Geary, recommended her for a position at the Ameritech Mobile branch in Milwaukee. Mindy says she will hopefully start working there in April '93, after the company's hiring freeze is over.

"A lot of it was luck, but my hard work and the connections I made also helped," she says. "Making a good impression really does help, because if you don't get the job after doing an internship, then you've wasted a good opportunity." —Tariq Ali

## Miss Puerto Rico Motivates Youth

Senior Nadine Arroyo is studying to be a broadcast journalist. But as Miss Puerto Rico, she has another goal: Motivating young Hispanics to set high goals for themselves and stay in school.

Based on her own experiences in Little Village, Arroyo realized she wanted to help change the problems today's Hispanic community faces. "We have to let people know that coming out of our culture, young people can definitely succeed and be great leaders," she says.

This passion prompted Arroyo to compete in the Miss Puerto Rico pageant. In the past, Miss Puerto Rico has been a representative of the community, but not a community leader. Arroyo has taken it upon herself this year to not only represent the community, but also lead a new generation of young adults.

And for the first time, the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce and the Puerto Rican Parade Committee have

asked their queen to take an oath to remain active in the community—even after she gives up her crown. Nadine's intention is to ensure that whomever



Nadine Arroyo, reigning Miss Puerto Rico, is a broadcast j-major.

follows will conquer bigger and better things.

Three years ago at Chicago's San Pedro church, located at Belmont and

Broadway, Arroyo became a youth group leader. It was there she discovered the potential children have to offer suggestions and ideas to improve community life.

"Young adults are treated as less than what they are," Arroyo believes. "People don't give them enough respect and I have a big problem with that. I think we have to start listening to them. We can learn from them because they really have something important to say. Adults are very skeptical, whereas young adults are not. They are always willing to give people a second chance."

In her future position as a journalist, Nadine wants to contribute as much as she can to the Hispanic community. She believes, "A journalist's job is to inform people about what is right and just, to say what needs to be said, and I am definitely going to do that—if it is the last thing I do." —Susan Olavarria



# Law Lures Drell Back to School

Adrienne Drell is used to giving orders and setting deadlines in her class *Covering the Courts*. However, last year the shoe was on the other foot, so to speak, when she spent a year at Yale Law School.

"I always understood the music, but now I hear a symphony," says Drell, referring to the law.

A *Chicago Sun-Times* court reporter, Drell went to Yale on a Knight Fellowship, which allows journalists to further their education.

She spent a year at the Ivy League school that resulted in a hard-earned Masters in Law degree. The fellowship covered all her expenses, including an apartment three blocks from campus.

"I wanted to learn in more of a non-deadline kind of way," says Drell. She adds that being a law student was actually a break from the constant deadlines involved with being a *Sun-Times* reporter. "It was so nice to just be able to study and learn without having to write a story about it."

In law school, Drell participated in a lot of activities she might not have otherwise done, such as defending Randall Terry, head of Operation Rescue, the anti-abortion group that blocks access

to abortion clinics.

Part of that involved a trip to the Supreme Court to watch Operation Rescue defend its right to block clinics.

The case was being tried at the same time Clarence Thomas was being confirmed to the Supreme Court. "As a



Adrienne Drell, a *Chicago Sun-Times* reporter, recently completed a Knight Fellowship studying law at Yale University.

matter of fact, they stopped the court so they could bring him in, because they just confirmed him," says Drell.

One of the most interesting things about her year at Yale was being there during the Clarence Thomas and Anita

Hill controversy. Both Thomas and Hill went to Yale Law, and many of the professors knew them.

"Anita Hill visited here," says Drell. "Bill and Hillary Clinton met here and they visited."

Many of Drell's professors make news regularly and a few of them were picked for Clinton's cabinet.

Professionally, Drell says the experience has made her a better reporter. "Now, when I look at a legal document, I really know what it means. It's like when you first learn to read and suddenly you know what all the words mean."

"I already knew a lot, covering court cases for the newspaper, but now, I truly understand it. It wasn't long enough."

Drell liked her experience so much that she stayed the summer to help represent some mentally handicapped adults and children.

In addition to the learning experience, Drell says she made many interesting friends, including one from Belgium.

Drell says she was "grateful and thrilled" about her experience. Now, she brings her new-found expertise back to Chicago at the *Sun-Times*, and as a teacher at Columbia.

—Hayley Carlton

# Grad: Texas News is for the...Pigs

Yeeeeeeeeew heeeewwwwwww! Grab your cowboy hat, we're headed for the wild west. This could be your next stop on the journalism wagon train.

With the job market sluggish, graduating j-students may find themselves taking jobs in places that are less than their dream locations.

Jacqui Podzius, a 1991 j-grad, had just such an experience in the last few months of 1992. After working at the Indianapolis bureau of the Associated Press wire service for a comfortable 13 months, she decided to look around for a new experience.

"I wanted to try newspaper, but the market was tight. So when the *Corpus Christi Caller Times* in Texas had an opening, I took it," Podzius says.

The experience turned out to be an eye-opening adventure for the life-long midwesterner.

"When I went down for the interview, it was 95 degrees. I didn't have a lot of time to get to know the town, but it seemed nice," she says.

It turned out to be more than just nice; it was...well...unique.

"It makes Indianapolis look like Manhattan. It is completely desolate and the culture is totally different," she

reminisces.

"They don't have any sports teams and they don't get Jay Leno."

Her professional experiences were different from anything she ever expected to cover as a journalist.

"My first assignment was to cover a back-hoe rodeo," she says, as this reporter interrupts to ask exactly what is a back-hoe rodeo.

"Well, I didn't know either. They had to tell me," she says.

"It is a rodeo, only with construction machinery. They have contests with the equipment. When they told me, I actually thought they might be kidding."



Still, she went there, determined to get a good story. What she found was a lot of construction workers, who she says were "all pretty nice to a yankee kid." She even got on the construction machinery and played construction cowboy with the best of them.

"The differences are hard to explain," she says. "There were subtle sexist things, like people calling me 'sweetie' or 'honey.' The pace was just different—quieter."

You know news is slow when they send you out to cover the death of a pig.

"A pig had been killed right before the county fair,"



Jacqui Podzius left the Indy AP briefly to try covering news Texas-style.

she laughs. "I had to call the people very seriously and ask 'What happened to the pig? How did you find it? Who do you think did it?' It was funny."

Other stories she covered include a big, old house being

decorated for Christmas and a chilly 50-degree day in December. After a few more like these, Podzius began to think about heading back to the Midwest.

"After I was there a couple weeks, I knew I wouldn't last," she said.

Podzius, now back with the Indianapolis AP, doesn't regret the experience, though. After all, she says, she learned about what she wants.

"It's kind of like you're dating one guy, and you date someone else just to make sure the first guy is the right one," she explains. "I'd always wondered if I would like working on a newspaper. Now I am able to make an informed decision."

As for other journalists looking to make that small-market move, she advises, "Make sure you know exactly what you're getting into. Try and spend extra time there to look around. Most of all, picture yourself there for six months or a year. If you can't, don't make the effort, because it can be a time-consuming and expensive move."

—Leslie Cummings

## Build Clips at Newsletters

As aspiring journalists know, the best way to gain experience is by writing for as many publications as possible. The more clips you have, the more attractive you'll be to employers.

Newsletter journalism is one readily available way to build your clip file. And now j-students can work on several newsletters within the department.

*Inside Journalism* is the official clearinghouse for news and information about the j-department and offers 12 students a shot at three or four clips each semester.

But now there are two more newsletters which offer students an opportunity to write by-lined stories.

For the past two years, students in Peter Gerner's Science Writing class-

es have had the opportunity to write for the March of Dimes quarterly newsletter. The March of Dimes, an organization best known for its work in discovering the polio vaccine, is a leader in genetic engineering and the prevention of birth defects. Its newsletter reaches over 10,000 members involved with the organization, from volunteers up to giant corporations.

Gerner, a Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer for the *Chicago Tribune*, is pleased with the results.

"The March of Dimes is a blue-chip organization," says Gerner. "When they approached me about this, it looked to me like a very good opportunity."

One thing the March of Dimes newsletter has done is give j-students a chance to sharpen their skills outside a Columbia classroom.

"So much of what students do is rehearsing," says Gerner. "They'll go out and research a story, interview people and then write a paper for class, but they don't have any professional outlets. The March of Dimes is an opportunity for

them to get their work published.

"I can't see any downside to this," he says. "The March of Dimes gets free stories about its people, and the students get clips. It's a very good thing. I just wish they had more space to give us."

Because the enrollment in Science Writing is generally small—seven students signed-up this semester—each one has an opportunity to get published at

least once. Two stories written by students (one about the effects of workplace chemicals on male sperm production, the other about a University of Chicago researcher studying the genes of left-handed children as it relates to birth defects) were picked up by national wires. At least one job offer

**Science writing is just another beat. The kids really seem to enjoy it. Whether they'll end up science writers, I don't know. But they won't be afraid of science anymore.—Peter Gerner**

has been extended to a student as a result of writing for the March of Dimes newsletter as well.

"The quality of writing has been very high," says Gerner. "I always make them over-report. I want them to get the most out of it."

"It [science writing] is just another beat. Writing for the March of Dimes is as close to the actual experience as possible. The kids really seem to enjoy it. Whether they'll end up science writers, I don't know. But they won't be afraid of science anymore," says Gerner.

While the March of Dimes newsletter offers j-students a chance to learn about science, a second newsletter at Columbia allows them to practice their writing skills in another specialized field.

The soon-to-be weekly newsletter *inreview* (formerly *Creative Loafing*) is devoted to covering Chicago's arts and entertainment scene. The brainchild of j-instructor and critic-at-large Stu Feiler, *inreview* grew out of his Writing Reviews and Criticism class.

"The class is what initiated every-



thing," says Feiler. "I thought they [the students] could use the clips for their portfolios. But the project was too good to stop at the end of the semester. That's why we created the Review Writing Workshop. This second-semester class deals more with the production of the newsletter."

Led by Cris Henry, editor-in-chief, and Audarshia Townsend, managing editor, students comb the city to find out what's hot and what's not.

"We will not do any political editorial pieces like you see in the *Reader* or *New City*—nothing to do with the real world," says Feiler. "We'll cover books, plays, movies, music, galleries, travel—anything is fair game. As long as it's something to do for fun, we'll review it."

"Look," Feiler continues, "times are still tough. We are acting as consumer advocates. We're trying to find the best value for your entertainment dollar."

Students are assigned specific beats at the beginning of the semester and are required to write at least two reviews per week—15 to 17 are actually published each issue. Feiler teaches one-on-one, because he believes it's the most effective way to learn. While watching Feiler work with senior Marijo Millette, one wonders if writing reviews is tougher than other writing styles.

"Oh God!" Millette says in mock horror. "Yes, sometimes it's hard to write something like this, because it's subjective. But it's certainly easier than writing a feature story."

Feiler adds, "You have to be able to describe your opinions clearly. That's why it's tougher."

Feiler sees great things for the future of *inreview*. Currently it's being distributed only at Columbia, but he would like to expand circulation to include theaters, restaurants and other hot spots in the city. He also wants to expand into a year-round production schedule.

The newsletter may carve a cozy niche in Chicago because, as Feiler says, "It has no direct competition. We are totally unique in what we do."

"The stuff we're doing is pretty damn good," he says. "It [*inreview*] gives the students a chance to stretch themselves as journalists. I think they've done a helluva job."

—Gino Carlino

## Brownlee to Hall of Fame

Columbia's j-students will soon be keeping company with a genuine Journalism Hall-of-Famer.

Les Brownlee, a j-instructor for 10 years, has received countless awards throughout his long and colorful career in journalism, including an Emmy in 1975 for his editorials on WLS-TV. Soon he'll have one more plaque to add to his already well-covered walls, and one more line to add to his well-stocked resume.

"It's such an honor," Brownlee says about his 1993 induction into the Journalism Hall of Fame.

The International Press Club of Chicago and the Chicago Headline Club, of which Brownlee is a past president,

**They don't give you any money; however, they do give you a free dinner.—Les Brownlee**

sponsor the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame. These organizations, along with others, such as the Chicago Association of Black Journalists, comprise a committee that nominates local journalists in the areas of reporting, features, sportswriting and photojournalism. Then they vote on those nominations.

There are eight other inductees this year, including WBBM-TV's Bill Kurtis, columnist Studs Terkel, and John White from Columbia's photography department. The 1993 winners are being honored at a ceremony this month at the Chicago Marriott.

"They don't give you any money; however, they do give you a free dinner," says Brownlee with a wink.

In 1947 Brownlee was the first African-American to be inducted into the Society of Professional Journalists (then known as Sigma Delta Chi), causing some Southern chapters to threaten resignation. In 1950 he was also the first African-American city newspaper reporter, and in 1964 the first African-American broadcast reporter.

In a life filled with firsts, does

Brownlee ever contemplate retirement?

"I'm 77 now, and I plan on doing what I love to do best for quite a few more years," he says with a sparkle in his eye. Let's assume he means writing and teaching!

Brownlee discovered the good news by calling his answering machine on his wife's birthday while the two were vacationing in Wisconsin.

"I was so taken aback, literally. I was really shocked. I couldn't even talk," Brownlee says. "My wife said it was one of the best birthday presents she ever got."

—Wendy Wollenberg

### INSIDE JOURNALISM

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COLUMBIA COLLEGE  
600 S. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60605

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